(b) The ITES-BPO enterprises fall under the State Sphere. Hence, this kind of information is not centrally maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Trade Unions Act, 1926 is applicable to IT Sector employees in the country.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Rate of Interest on EPF and PPF

374. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest on EPF for 2005-06 has been fixed at 8.5 per cent p.a.;

(b) if so, the rate of interest fixed for PPF;

(c) why there is difference in the rate of interest in these two categories of provident funds; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce administrative expenditure on EPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has notified the rate of interest for the year 2005-06 @ 8.5%.

(b) The rate of interest on PPF was fixed at 8.0% for the year 2003-04 and since then the same rate of interest is being continued for the Financial Year 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(c) The two schemes are different in terms of the subscriber base, mechanism for deployment of proceeds, housing of the funds, payments to subscribers and risks associated therewith.

(d) All administrative expenditure is incurred judiciously in accordance with the instructions issued by the government from time to time and by observing standards of financial proprietary.

Rate of Interest on EPF

375. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had finally decided to reduce the rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) from 9.5 per cent to 8.5 per cent for